

## **REMARKS**

In the office action, three distinct requests were made for the election of species. The specific request for election of species is found in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of the Office Action. The request will be addressed in sequence.

In the first species restriction, the Examiner has asked that Applicants elect one of the following species for the releasable coupling: I threaded coupling, II weldment, III severable portion, and IV discontinuity. Applicants elect group I to the threaded coupling. The claims that read on the threaded coupling of Group I are: 1-19, 23-37, 39-58, and 62-70.

In the second species restriction, the Examiner has asked that Applicants elect one of the following species for the marker: I alpha-shaped, II at least one extension and, III at least one hook. Applicants elect group II to the at least one extension. The claims that read on the extension of Group II are: 1-24, 26-67, and 69-70.

In the third species restriction, the Examiner has asked that Applicants elect one of the following species for the filament: I wire, II suture material and, III bioabsorbable material. Applicants elect group I to the filament being a wire. The claims that read on the filament being a wire of Group I are: 1-14, 16-27, 30-63, and 66-70.

If there are any questions regarding this election of species, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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